

WALLA WALLA COUNTY WATERSHED PLANNING

500 Tausick Way - Walla Walla, WA 99362

January 14, 2008

Mr. Todd Bolster
WA Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: Support for Approval of New Eligible BMPs

Dear Mr. Bolster

On behalf of the WRIA 32 Walla Walla Watershed Planning Unit we would like to express our support for the proposed expanded list of BMPs to be eligible for funding from Section 319 and Centennial Clean Water Funds as developed and presented to Ecology staff by Asotin County Conservation District. These BMP's are consistent with the WRIA 32 Watershed Plan and will provide expanded utility for Section 319 and Centennial Funds to implement the goals and objectives of the Watershed Plan.

We believe that the proposal was developed in a professional and respectful manner, taking into account an understanding that Ecology is cautious about expanding program fiscal obligations. With this request, we understand that the local Conservation Districts will be working to provide additional application guidelines that will support fiscal accountability of public funds while addressing public and agency interest in enhancing water quality and diversifying the fiscal incentive between various funding sources including private landowners.

The Watershed Plan for WRIA 32, Walla Walla Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Council/Bonneville Power Administration Subbasin Plan, and the regional Snake River Salmon Recovery Plan all identify riparian, livestock and upland impacts and restoration/enhancement actions for implementation that could improve water quality conditions and support recovery of ESA listed salmonid species.

Respectfully,

Hal Thomas, City of Walla Walla
Planning Unit Co-Chair

Eric Myers, Columbia County Citizen
Planning Unit Co-Chair